

In The News...

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Coalinga State Hospital Newsletter

Job Opportunities at Coalinga State Hospital

By: Tom Voss, Executive Director

Coalinga State Hospital will be like a small city providing hundreds of different types of job opportunities for local residents. Many people will be needed to staff the facility including a variety of professional and non-professional positions. The skills and experience we will need to run the facility effectively will range from Psychiatric Technicians to Registered Nurses, as well as non-clinical workers including housekeepers and food services staff.

More than 2,000 jobs will be available at Coalinga State Hospital (CSH) when the facility opens in 2005. The initial hiring for hospital staff will be done in phases starting in mid-2004 and continuing into early 2005. In the next hiring phase, about 85 positions will be brought on board. These positions include a variety of information system positions, clerical support, hospital police officers,

warehouse and supply staff, janitors, and maintenance mechanic positions.

If you think you may be interested in working at CSH, now is the time to find out more information about the types of positions that will be available in the next hiring phase. You may also want to become familiar with the hiring process for the State of California. Applicants must go through a number of steps including meeting minimum qualifications, being called for an examination, achieving list eligibility, participating in a hiring interview, and finally receiving the job offer.

For more information, visit our website at www.dmh.ca.gov under Coalinga State Hospital – employment opportunities. You can also visit us in person at 148 West Elm Avenue or call (559) 935-4305.

Construction Update with Pictures

By: Ben McLain, Hospital Administrator

If you have driven east down Jayne Avenue just past Pleasant Valley State Prison you may have noticed a great deal of activity in the past nine months. Facility construction for the new Coalinga State Hospital started November 2002 and is progressing rapidly.

More than 300 workers are on site now laying the foundation for the 1,500 bed facility slated for completion in early 2005. Here is a brief list of what has been completed so far:

- Building slabs have been laid
- Roadways/parking have been constructed
- Underground utilities and water tanks are in
- Some hospital treatment unit block walls are up
- The two-story administration building concrete slab is in place and steel framing is nearing completion

At the peak of construction more than 50 subcontractors and some 800 workers will be on site to complete the new facility. Contractors and subcontractors are working with area union halls to employ local construction workers when possible. The following website will provide you background information on the building project as well as a live web cam to view construction progress: www.stf.constructware.com/fsCurrentProjects.asp.

More Construction!



Treatment Units



Administration Building



Coalinga State Hospital and Pleasant Valley State Prison: Close Together and Very Different!!

By: Peggy Egeberg, Training Officer I

As the new Training Officer at Coalinga State Hospital, I have learned a lot about the Department of Mental Health during the past few weeks. I get questions from people wondering if the Coalinga State Hospital will be a prison and if it is connected with Pleasant Valley State Prison (PVSP). I hope this article helps to answer some of these questions.

The building site for Coalinga State Hospital is located right next to Pleasant Valley State Prison on Jayne Avenue just outside of Coalinga. While both facilities are close together, they will house different populations and exist for different purposes.

Coalinga State Hospital is run by the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and will care for 1,500 patients who are in need of mental health treatment. These patients, Sexually Violent Predators (SVP), are repeat sex offenders that are committed to the hospital for treatment after completing their prison terms. About 2,000 personnel including psychiatric technicians, registered nurses, and physicians, and a variety of non-clinical support services staff will be employed at Coalinga State Hospital. The facility will also have a hospital police force to ensure the security inside the facility.

To the immediate west, Pleasant Valley State Prison, is the home of close to 5,000 incarcerated men and is run by the California Department of Corrections (CDC). Coalinga State Hospital and Pleasant Valley State Prison are two very different facilities.

Facility	Coalinga State Hospital	Pleasant Valley State Prison
Population	1,500 Patients	5,000 Inmates
Staff	2,000 Clinical & Support	1,000 Custody & Support
Community Work	Patients will not be allowed to work outside the facility	Certain inmates are allowed to perform community service work
Purpose	Mental Health Treatment	Incarceration
Release Conditions	❖ Completion of treatment ❖ Meet all release criteria ❖ Superior Court determination ❖ Enrollment in CONREP program	❖ Complete sentence ❖ Parole ❖ Pardon

The patients at Coalinga State Hospital will be required under a civil commitment statute to remain for treatment in a secure treatment facility. The initial commitment is for two years treatment and may be renewed if needed. Many of the patients will remain at Coalinga State Hospital for at least two years. A patient may be released only if he has completed all phases of the inpatient program, has met all release criteria and it has been determined by a Superior Court that the individual is to be released. The patient is then released into a community transitional program called a conditional release program (CONREP), which is located in the county of commitment.

There are several advantages for the facilities being located next to each other. CSH will be able to use fire protection services and external perimeter security services from PVSP, thereby saving taxpayer dollars for these resources. There will be carpooling opportunities as staff working at either facility can ride together and share transportation costs.

CalPERS 100% Financing

By: Mae Johnson, Executive Secretary

CalPERS, California Public Employees' Retirement System, offers state employees 100% financing on a home loan. In addition to all the many other benefits offered by the State, CalPERS government financing could help you purchase a home with little or no money down. It's easier than you may have thought. You too can reach your dream of owning your own home.

And here's the best part of all, your affordable dream home can be found right here in Coalinga. Brand new three to four bedroom homes are currently being constructed and are available from \$90,000 up to \$160,000. These unbelievable prices have made it possible for many first time homeowners to realize the benefits and security of owning their own home. Homes are selling fast; an investment now could be an opportunity of a lifetime. Please visit the Coalinga Chamber of Commerce web page for further real estate information:

<http://www.coalingachamber.com/estate.html> Coalinga is a wonderful community, and Coalinga State Hospital is looking to hire over 2,000 employees. Could this be the security you've been searching for?

There is no minimum State service or vesting eligibility requirement. You can qualify with as little as 3% down. Current State employees with accumulated contributions credited to their retirement account are eligible for 100% financing. Call now, find out what you're eligible for – you might be pleasantly surprised! CalPERS 1-800-675-9778 or visit their website at www.personline.com.

CSH Central Plant

By: Bill Homsany, Chief Engineer I

The new Coalinga State Hospital facility under construction in Coalinga, California, will have more than 1.2 million square feet of interior space when built. Like many large hospitals, institutions, or college campuses, the facility will be air-conditioned. Most of the cooling and heating for the air conditioning system will be generated by machines inside a building centrally located at the hospital. This building is named the Central Plant.

The Central Plant will be like an engine room on a cruise ship, where large machines like boilers, chillers, and diesel generators will make the energy and mechanical power to provide the cooling, heating, and emergency power to keep the people inside the buildings healthy and comfortable. Also, like a large ship, the machines will need engineers and mechanics to constantly monitor, operate, and maintain the system.

The machines that create the refrigeration for the air conditioning system are called chillers. The chillers will be powered by electric motors that drive a compressor. The system then cools water, like a large drinking fountain, except that the water is then pumped to finned coils, which cool the buildings. Interestingly, the Central Plant chiller system, which will provide the cooling for the hospital air conditioning system, will be able to generate about 2,700 tons of refrigeration. That is enough cooling capacity to cool about 900 average size homes!

The engineers and mechanics that will operate the Central Plant will be responsible to make sure that all of the machines inside are operating properly and safely. Also, the engineers and mechanics will do maintenance and repairs to the machines as needed. These people need to have a good mechanical ability, and knowledge of electricity, electronics, refrigeration, and boilers. Therefore, one of the best ways to learn about operating and repairing these machines is through Community Colleges and technical schools. Also, apprenticeship programs through local unions and industry are sometimes available. Some Stationary Engineers gain training and experience on chillers and boilers while in the Navy, working as Machinists Mates, or Boiler Technicians.

We will be looking to hire skilled trades people in the near future, including Maintenance Mechanics, Electricians, Plumbers, Stationary Engineers, Carpenters, and Buildings and Grounds workers. You can contact me at (559) 935-7149 or via e-mail bhomsany@csh.dmh.ca.gov if you would like to find out more about the engineering plant or jobs at Coalinga State Hospital.

Community Workshops

By: Uriel Hansen, Staff Services Analyst

Learn how to navigate the civil service system and develop your job search skills this spring and summer here with the technical experts from Coalinga State Hospital's Examination Services Unit.

The following community workshops will be available on the second Thursday of each month from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM in our Conference Room:

HOW TO GET A STATE JOB, READ AN EXAM BULLETIN AND COMPLETE A STATE APPLICATION

Thursday – August 14, 2003

HOW TO PREPARE A RESUME

Thursday – September 11, 2003

HOW TO PREPARE FOR AN INTERVIEW

Thursday – October 9, 2003

WHAT IS 'CAREER PLANNING' AND HOW DO I USE IT?

Thursday – November 13, 2003

NO PREREGISTRATION IS NECESSARY!

We look forward to providing this public service to you and anticipate seeing you in class! If you have questions or would like more information please call (559) 935-4305.



Career Opportunity

By: Jon Lovgren, Chief Protective Services

Have you considered a career in law enforcement? A career as a Hospital Police Officer (HPO) could be exactly what you have been looking for. And here's the best part - no experience is required. Please contact our personnel office for minimum requirements and procedures on how to apply for employment as a HPO at Coalinga State Hospital.

HPO's work in a clinical environment within a secure forensic facility. The HPO is distinguished from other peace officer classes because law enforcement duties require working in close proximity to mentally ill patients. On the job training is provided. Now is the time! We are currently accepting applications. Embark on an interesting and challenging career.

Coalinga State Hospital

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The Department of Mental Health is
an equal opportunity employer.